Appl. No. 10/542,073
Amendment dated October 14, 2010
in response to Office Action dated April 14, 2010

Att. Dock. No. 03125/33

REMARKS

Claims 36-49 are pending in this application. Claim 36 is an independent claim and the remaining claims are dependent claims.

Claims 36, 39, 40, 45, 47 and 49 have been amended herein. These amendments are supported throughout the Specification and drawings and do not raise new matter.

I. Rejections under Double Patenting

Claims 36-45 and 49 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4 of copending U.S. Patent Application No. 11/929,749 ("the '749 application"). The present application is an earlier filed parent application to the '749 application, which is a divisional thereof. Thus, the provisional nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection should be withdrawn from the present application. See MPEP 804(B)(1) and (C).

II. Claim Objections

Claims 47 and 49 have been objected to for containing a typographical error in the phrase "wherein processor." These claims have been amended to recite "wherein the processor." Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 39 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶1 for failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, these claims recite a "UV sensor" and "UV

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sensors." However, in the Examiner's view, a UV sensor is not described in the Specification.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. The present application clearly discloses "sensors that detect"

the "UV-luminous ink."

> <u>UV-luminous ink and sensors that detect the ink</u> are used in the embodiment. A code in <u>UV-luminous ink</u> is invisible to a naked human eyes, and this is an example of a code that is visible under certain conditions. In contrast to this, another configuration is conceivable. For example, ink that is visualized by infrared light may be applied. For another example, a code may be provided on a card by using magnetism. In this case, magnetic sensors are provided on the detection device. Specification, page 26, lines 16-22. (Emphasis added)

> In an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended claims 39 and 40 to claim a

"sensor" or "sensors." Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests these rejections be

withdrawn.

IV. **Claim Rejections on Prior Art Grounds**

Claims 36, 37, 39-44 and 46-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,534,562 ("Cuff") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,042,150 to

Daley ("Daley"); claims 36, 38, 43, 45 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,093,103 ("McCrea") in view of Daley and Cuff. These
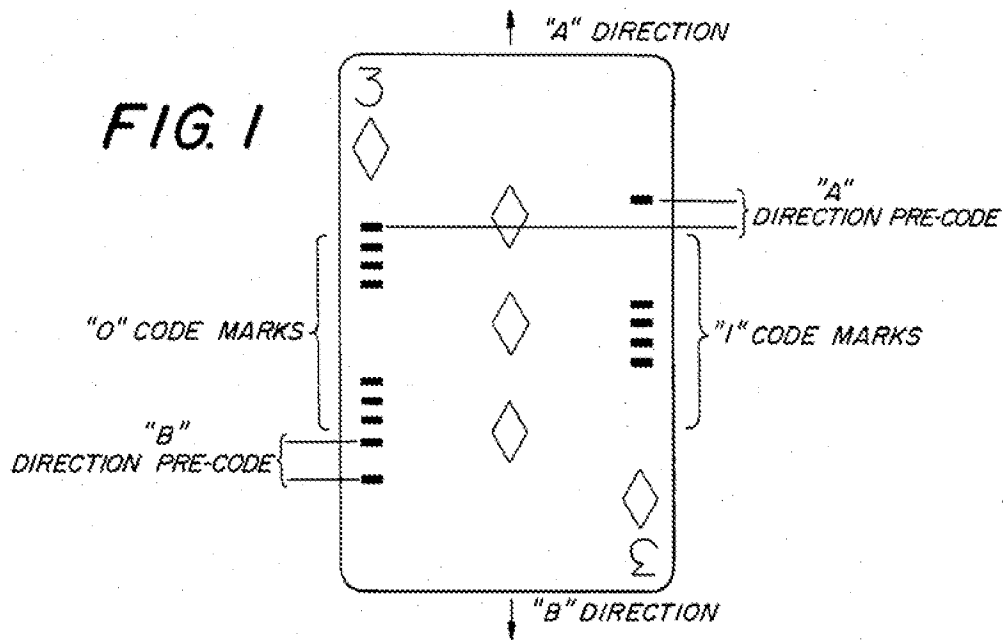
rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 36 recites a card reading system including (among other things):

> at least one card reader for reading card information from a code printed in UV-luminous ink on a surface of the card, wherein the card reader reads the code by detecting at least two rows of code elements arranged along at least one side on the surface of a card in a card drawing direction, wherein each of the rows of code elements are stacked inwardly from an edge of the card toward a center of the

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card and spaced apart from each other and wherein the same code is provided along opposed sides of the surface of the card in the card drawing direction.

At least these features are neither taught nor suggested by the cited references.

The cards in Cuff are shown in FIG. 1 (reproduced below):

Cuff discloses (as shown in FIG. 1 above) that "bars representing binary zeros are located along one side edge of the face of the card, while bars representing binary ones are located along the opposite side edge of the face of the card" (col. 4, lines 26-29, emphasis added). Therefore, Cuff discloses a single row of binary code located on one edge of the card, and a different, single row of binary code along the opposite edge of the card. As the binary codes in Cuff are different and unique from one another, Cuff fails to disclose or suggest "wherein the same code is provided along opposed sides of the surface of the card in the card drawing direction," as recited by amended claim 36. Cuff also fails to disclose the two rows of code on each side of the card.

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Further, Cuff describes direction precodes indicative of the orientation of the card with respect to the card reader. Specifically, Cuff discloses a "direction precode is used to indicate the orientation of the card with respect to the card reader" (col. 4, lines 36-40). The photocells 34, 36 read the direction precode marks when a card moves. The card guides in the Cuff dealer allow the cards to move in either one of two directions; the "A" direction or the "B" direction. (*See* Cuff, col. 7, lines 16-55 and Fig. 1). However, the photocells 34 and 36 that read the precode are located on only one side of the reader. Thus, if a card in Cuff is rotated (e.g., 180°), the photocells 34, 36 would not be able to read the precode that has been rotated away from (on the opposite side of) the sensor. Therefore, even having two photocells, as in Cuff, would not solve the problem resulting from a rotated card because Cuff uses different codes on each side of the card. To this end, the photocells and card reader in Cuff would not be able to read the code on the card. Also, the reader would not be able to even detect the card.

Since the present application provides the <u>same code</u> along opposed sides of the surface of the card in the card drawing direction, card readers having sensors on only one side are able to read the code on the cards irrespective of the orientation of the card when it is placed in the card reader. That is, the card reader will sense the code on cards that have been rotated 180° as well as cards that have not been rotated.

Daley, when taken individually or in combination with Cuff, fails to disclose or suggest, the requirements of amended claim 36. Specifically, Daley fails to disclose any <u>rows of code</u> elements stacked inwardly from the edges of the cards at all, let alone that the same code is provided <u>along opposed sides</u> of the surface of the card. Rather, the cards in Daley include

predetermined "indicia 17" at the <u>center</u> of the card as recited by the claims.

McCrea does not disclose two rows of code that are detected by the card reader and where the same code is provided along opposed sides of the surface of the card along the card drawing direction, as recited in the claims. The Examiner acknowledges that McCrea fails to disclose that the codes are printed in UV-luminous ink or two rows of code elements as required by claim 36. (*See* Office Action, page 6, item no. 21). Therefore, McCrea, when taken individually or in any combination with Cuff and Daley, fails to disclose or suggest the elements as recited by amended claim 36.

Even if the systems of Cuff, Daley and McCrea were combined, as suggested by the Examiner, the combination would not disclose two rows of code elements where the same code is provided along opposed sides of the surface of the card in the card drawing direction, as in the claims.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that independent claim 36 and its dependent claims are patentable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the preceding Amendments and Remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the various objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action is respectfully requested.

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No additional fee is deemed necessary in connection with this Amendment. However,

authorization is given to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account

No. 01-1785.

Respectfully submitted,

AMSTER, ROTHSTEIN & EBENSTEIN LLP
Attorneys for Applicant
90 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10016
(212) 336-8000

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By: ___/Kinza Hecht/_____
    Kinza Hecht
    Reg. No. 62,325
    Patent Agent

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